AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An alkaline battery comprising:

a positive electrode mixture comprising manganese dioxide and nickel oxyhydroxide as active materials;

a negative electrode comprising zinc as an active material; and

an alkaline electrolyte, characterized in that the potential of said manganese dioxide relative to a mercury/mercury oxide electrode in a potassium hydroxide aqueous solution having a KOH concentration of 40 wt% is ~~greater than 270~~ 272 mV or higher.

2. (Original) The alkaline battery in accordance with claim 1, wherein with respect to the total amount of said manganese dioxide and said nickel oxyhydroxide, the content of said manganese dioxide is from 20 to 90 wt% and the content of said nickel oxyhydroxide is from 10 to 80 wt%.

3. (Currently amended) The alkaline battery in accordance with claim 1, wherein said manganese dioxide is electrolytic manganese dioxide whose potential is heightened to 272 mV or higher by cleaning with an aqueous solution of sulfuric acid.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) An alkaline battery comprising:

a positive electrode mixture comprising manganese dioxide and nickel oxyhydroxide as active materials;

a negative electrode comprising zinc as an active material; and

an alkaline electrolyte, characterized in that the potential of said manganese dioxide relative to a mercury/mercury oxide electrode in a potassium hydroxide aqueous solution having a KOH concentration of 40 wt% is [[270]] 272 mV or higher,

wherein said manganese dioxide is electrolytic manganese dioxide whose potential is heightened by cleaning with an aqueous solution of sulfuric acid, and

the concentration of sulfuric acid in said aqueous solution of sulfuric acid is 10 wt% or higher.

6. (New) The alkaline battery in accordance with claim 1, wherein the potential of said manganese dioxide relative to a mercury/mercury oxide electrode in a potassium hydroxide aqueous solution having a KOH concentration of 40 wt% is 281 mV or higher.